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20 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Additional information on [REDACTED]
Membership on the National Academy of Sciences'
Committee on [REDACTED]

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1. NASA has allocated some \$500,000 to the United States Geological Survey for selecting and supporting developmental projects on the use of remote sensing in applied geographic research. They are similarly supporting projects on the use of remote sensing in hydrology, geology, and cartography. It seems fairly obvious that NASA's objective is to build up a demonstrated need for remote sensing data which they plan to supply in tremendous quantities in the early 1970's. If the various professional fields can demonstrate the usefulness of remote sensing materials in conducting research in this country and throughout the world, NASA will be able to defend its request for funds by pointing to practical applications of the data.

2. When the United States Geological Survey was assigned this action role on behalf of NASA, officials in the Survey felt that professional advice on the initiation and approval of projects should be secured from the leaders in the various professional fields. As has been a practice in the past, the U.S.G.S. asked the National Academy of Sciences to establish advisory committees in each of several fields for the purpose of advising them on suitable projects which should be undertaken to demonstrate the utilization of remote sensing data in applied research. I understand that advisory committees have been established for the fields of geography, hydrology, and geology.

3. In the field of geography, there are some half dozen projects now underway which have utilized NASA funds controlled by U.S.G.S. The Advisory Committee in Geography initially helped select these projects and recently reviewed the interim reports. It is my understanding that the number of projects initiated to demonstrate the use of remote sensing in applied geographic research has been limited, and only a portion of the money available has been requested and allocated. A possible explanation of the slow progress probably has been the lack of understanding of the quality and potential use of some of the remote sensing products which will be available in the 1970's. Also, the current projects are dependent on products from a NASA aircraft platform.

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NASA often has failed to meet project requirements for remote sensing data on schedule.

4. The advisory committee, established at the request of U.S.G.S. in the National Academy of Sciences, has the following membership:

Dr. Warren Nystrom, the Chairman, is the Executive Secretary of the Association of American Geographers,

Dr. John Sherman, Professor of Geography, University of Washington,

Dr. Charles M. Davis, Professor of Geography, University of Michigan,

Dr. Ian Burton, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Toronto,

Dr. Chauncey Harris, Professor of Geography, University of Chicago, and,

Robert H. Alexander, Geographer, Office of Naval Research.

I understand that Chauncey Harris must leave the committee because of the press of other duties and Robert H. Alexander must leave because he is taking up work in the U.S.G.S. To replace these two members and possibly to enlarge the membership of the committee, they are currently nominating four additional members. Two of them are Dr. Leslie J. King, Associate Professor, Ohio State University, and [REDACTED] of this Office. The other two nominations are unknown to me. These nominations go to Dr. John Borchert who is the Chairman of the Earth Sciences Division of the National Academy of Sciences. He will be the one to act upon the nominations between now and the next meeting of the advisory committee.

5. I am attaching to this memorandum four pages of general information about the National Academy of Sciences which may be helpful in understanding its role - via [REDACTED] government research activities.

JAMES A. BRAMMELL

JAMES A. BRAMMELL
Director
Basic and Geographic Intelligence

Attachment
As stated

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